

Message Text

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67

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 DRC-01 /133 W

----- 092140

R 261714Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1343

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 04828

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UG

SUBJECT: COUP ATTEMPT IN KAMPALA

THE FRG FONOFF TODAY GAVE US THE FOLLOWING REPORT FROM
FRG EMBASSY KAMPALA ON THE EVENTS WHICH
OCCURRED OVER THE WEEKEND. BEGIN TEXT:

ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL VERSION WHICH HAS BEEN PUT
OUT BY THE NEWS MEDIA, THE UNREST ON SATURDAY NIGHT WAS
THE RESULT OF AN ERRONEOUS REPORT OF INVASION. THE
MALIRE REGIMENT, ACCORDING TO THESE REPORTS, THEREUPON
TOOK UP STRATEGIC POSITIONS IN THE CITY. THE
RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FALSE ALARM IS ASSIGNED TO
BRIGADIER ARUBE, FORMERLY CHIEF OF STAFF AND RECENTLY
RETURNED FROM A HALF-YEAR OF TRAINING IN THE USSR.

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ARUBE, THE REPORTS STATE, COMMITTED SUICIDE. AMIN

REGRETTED THAT SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS HAD LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE ACTION.

ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON, THE PRESIDENT DEMONSTRATED, BY RIDING THROUGH THE STREETS OF KAMPALA IN AN OPEN JEEP, THAT HE WAS MASTER OF THE SITUATION. TRAFFIC WAS NORMAL IN KAMPALA ON SUNDAY. ENTEBBE AIRPORT HAS BEEN REOPENED SINCE SUNDAY AFTERNOON. RUMORS CONCERNING UNREST IN THE JINJA GARRISON HAVE AS YET NOT BEEN CONFIRMED.

OVER THE WEEKEND, THE UNDERSIGNED (AMBASSADOR KOPF) WAS ON AN OFFICIAL TRIP TO LOOK AT A CAPITAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT FOR A CENTRAL AGRICULTURAL STORAGE AREA IN KASESE. THE 500 KILOMETER TRIP TOOK PLACE WITHOUT STOPS OR CONTROLS. ROAD TRAFFIC WAS NORMAL FOR A SUNDAY. IT WAS EVIDENT THAT THE AREAS INVOLVED, MBARARA AND MASAKA, WERE UNAWARE OF THE EVENTS IN KAMPALA.

THE OFFICIAL VERSION OF A FALSE ALARM APPEARS, HOWEVER, TO BE INSUFFICIENT. A MORE PROBABLE EXPLANATION IS THAT THERE WERE STRUGGLES BETWEEN TROOP UNITS, POSSIBLY RELATED TO TRIBAL AFFILIATION, FOLLOWED BY A PURGE CARRIED OUT BY AMIN AGAINST ARUBE AND HIS SUPPORTERS. END TEXT.
HILLENBRAND

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